PET OF THE WEEK

PET OF THE WEEK: Otis

PETER CASEY | STAFF WRITER

January 16, 2025 . 1:00 PM — 1 min read

Otis is the beloved hedgehog of Teagan, Riley, and Caitrin Newman. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/PETER CASEY

Say hello to Otis, a 2 1/2-year-old an African pygmy hedgehog who enjoys sleeping during the day and logging (noisy) miles on his wheel at

Subscribe

He was purchased from a breeder in Connecticut when he was 8 weeks old. Legal in Massachusetts (but not all states), hedgehogs are not native to the U.S., having been introduced as exotic pets here in the 1980s.

Join your neighbors by subscribing to our free weekly newsletter!

While caring for a hedgehog is pretty straightforward, they aren't considered family pets because their sharp quills can make them difficult to handle. They can, however, be certified as emotional support animals since their presence has been shown to provide their owners with a sense of calm and alleviate feelings of anxiety, stress, and depression.

Otis is cared for by Teagan, Riley, and Caitrin Newman at their Winthrop Street home.

Have you got a pet in your household you would like to spotlight? Just send us their name, a little bit of information about their age and personality and of course, do not forget to send a photo! Just email editor@winchesternews.org with Pet of the Week in the subject line.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Related

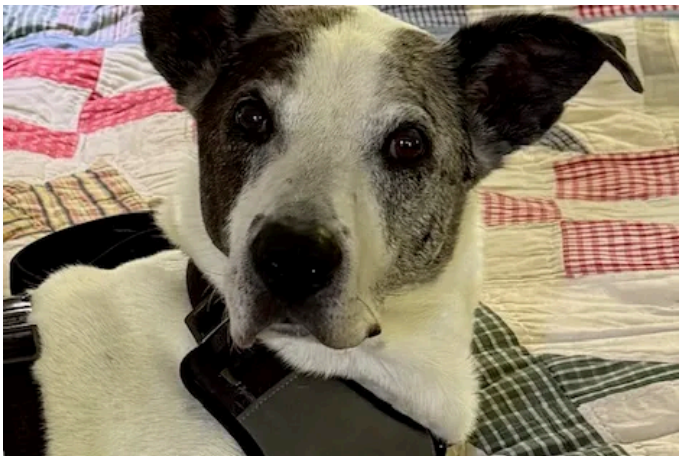
Subscribe

PET OF THE WEEK

PET OF THE WEEK: Griffin Lauretano

Hi, I'm Griffin Lauretano and I am a purebred poodle! I am very smart and playful! I am 4 years old! I hang out in Winchester with my Grammie, Cheryl. We take long walks around our beautiful neighborhoods in Winchester and enjoy seeing other neighbors and their dogs! Hope

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
July 17, 2025

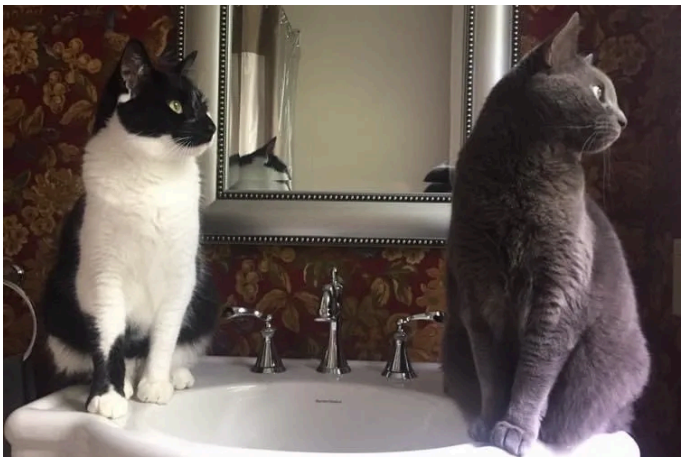


PET OF THE WEEK

PET OF THE WEEK: Owen Wilson

By Lauren Herrmann Owen Wilson is a 13-year-old, 63-pound Catahoula Leopard, which is the state dog of Louisiana. This breed is thought to be a combination of dogs that Spanish and French explorers brought to the Choctaw Lakes region to herd wild boars in the 16th to 18th centuries. The

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
June 25, 2025



PET OF THE WEEK

PETS OF THE WEEK: Moon Shadow and Sally

Moon Shadow and Sally are rescues whom Highland Avenue residents Tara and Rob Hughes adopted. "Sally is our older girl (14) originally an outdoor kitty from Somerville who fell in love with our daughter when she

PET OF THE WEEK

PET OF THE WEEK: Abby the tabby

Taking advantage of an open door, Abby the tabby just walked into Mahoney's and made herself at home. She introd
her new human, who instan
with her. New cozy bed, toys, delicious food,

Subscribe

was little," the family says. "She is vocal, loving, smart and often hungry for

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

May 13, 2025

treats ... life was good. Abby pays her way. Supervising floral arrangements

CHARLENE BAND | CONTRIBUTOR

April 17, 2025

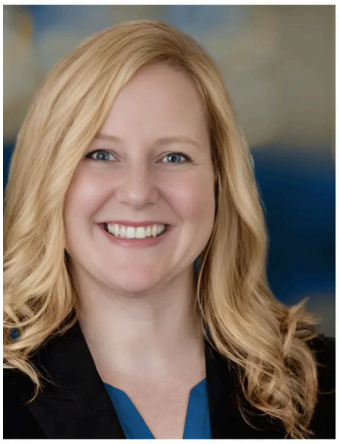
Latest

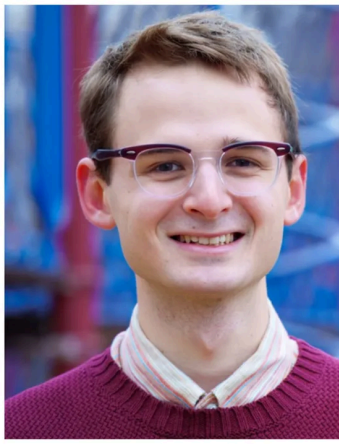
EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026





NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

Subscribe

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

Subscribe

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe